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COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Soviet and Satellite Analyst's
 Comments on Malenkov's Speech to
 the Supreme Soviet

25X1A2g
 CIA [REDACTED]
 DATE 10 Aug 53

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1. "The stress on improvements in living standards to come is not a proof of Malenkov's love of his fellowmen. Rather, I think, it shows that dissatisfaction among the Soviet people has reached large proportions. It also shows that the Kremlin feels that Soviet rearmament is sufficiently ahead of the Western Powers so as to allow for a period of reduced heavy industry production.
2. "The question is, of course, how long this period is going to be. It is likely that the Kremlin, while promising a lot now, may again reverse the course after only a fraction of the program has been fulfilled--just enough to stem the apparently now rising tide of popular unrest.
3. "As to Malenkov's H-bomb statement, one can only speculate as to what he meant to imply. I am convinced that the vagueness of Malenkov's phrasing was not fortuitous but deliberate. The majority of the Soviet people can be assumed to have interpreted the term "breaking US H-bomb monopoly" as meaning that the USSR has the hydrogen bomb. Insofar as Malenkov wanted to reassure his own people, he probably has succeeded. There was no need for Malenkov to use more precise terms.
4. "Concerning Western reactions, I would almost say that the vaguer Malenkov's phrasing, the better it serves its purpose to stir up dissension among the various Western nations and the US because the ambiguous wording would be interpreted in different manners, and different conclusions would be drawn from these interpretations. The first post-Malenkov speech dispatches from Europe showed that this is indeed happening. France and Italy, with friendly applauding from their own Communist Parties, must be expected to press more strongly than ever for Big Four talks and increased efforts to effect an East-West settlement on a 'realistic' basis.

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5. "To me the most puzzling factor was Malenkov's announcement of relaxations in the farm sector at the same time that the Supreme Soviet voted to have Beria tried by the [Soviet] Supreme Court.
6. "This puts new emphasis on the question: Why was Beria purged?
7. "Most of the 'experts' have held so far that Beria was mainly responsible for the softer post-Stalin course. Since Malenkov's 8 Aug 53 proclamation was largely in line with that course, Beria, it seems, could hardly have been arrested for reasons of basic policy differences.
8. "What seems more likely is that Malenkov became worried over the popularity which Beria gained by the latter's liberalization drive and that Malenkov decided to have Beria eliminated on charges of 'anti-state activities, etc.,' while adopting Beria's policy for enhancing Malenkov's own prestige. (There is an interesting parallel here in the way in which Stalin adopted many of Trotsky's ideas after Stalin had shorn Trotsky of power.)"

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